adviser(s). Accordingly, SBI Caps have been appointed as Consultant.

Regularisation of Deputy Directors

*219. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 out of 50 Deputy Directors (Officials Languages) in the Department of Official language are working on ad hoc basis for the last two years and no DPC has been conducted therefor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to hold DPC to regularise the services of DD (OL) who at present are working on ad hoc basis?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) At present 17 posts of Deputy Directors of Official Language Service have been filled up by making ad-hoc promotions. Out of these, 6 officers were promoted in 1996-97 and 11 were promoted on ad-hoc basis during 1997-98.

A proposal for convening the meeting of DPC for filling up the vacancies of Deputy Director for the year 1996-97, was sent to U.P.S.C. They sought some clarification regarding the vacancies. In the meantime vacancies for the year 1997-98 have also become available. On the suggestions of U.P.S.C. the vacancies for the year 1996-97, have been treated **as** the vacancies for the year 1997-98. After obtaining relaxation in Rules from the Deptt. of Personnel and Training the proposal for convening the D.P.C. meeting for filling up these posts on regular basis has sicne been forwarded to U.P.S.C.

Ethnic Conflicts in Assam

*220. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in Assam upto 15th of May, 1998 as a result of ethnic conflict between Bodos and others;

(b) what steps Government have taken to protect the various tribal groups in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) From the year 1996 upto 15th May, 1998, 326 persons reportedly lost their lives in ethnic conflict between Bodos and others in Assam

(b) and (c) For the protection of the hill tribes of Assam, two Autonomous Councils have been established under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. These are the Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Autonomous Councils.

Constitutional safeguards have been provided for the protection of culture, customs, etc. of the hill tribes and also for managing the lands and forests and major development activities within their jurisdiction.

In addition, the State Government have also set up Autonomous Councils for protecting tribal groups like Mihings, Rabhas and Tiwas. The Bodos have also been protected by the establishment of the Bodoland Autonomous Council through an Act of the State Legislature in 1993.

To control ethnic conflicts between Bodos and others especially in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts, the State Government have set up pickets in sensitive areas and deployed additional police, para-military and military forces in the affected areas. The State Government has set up relief camps and is providing relief materials including food. The State Government has also